

Senate File 240 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 240
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1001)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to statewide assessments of student progress
2 utilizing core academic indicators, and including effective
3 date provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,
2 subparagraphs (2) and (3), Code 2017, are amended by striking
3 the subparagraphs.

4 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT
5 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.

6 1. The department of education shall issue a request
7 for proposals for the selection of a statewide assessment
8 of student progress to be administered in the school year
9 beginning July 1, 2018, and each succeeding school year.
10 The assessment shall measure individual student growth and
11 be aligned to the Iowa core academic standards for grades
12 three through eight and at least one high school grade. The
13 assessment shall be capable of measuring student performance
14 in English language arts, including reading and writing;
15 mathematics; and science. The assessment shall be available in
16 both paper-and-pencil and computer-based formats. Proposals
17 incapable of assessing performance in English language arts,
18 including reading and writing, mathematics, and science
19 shall not be considered. Potential vendors or providers may
20 collaborate to meet the requirements of this subsection.

21 2. In evaluating the proposals, the department shall
22 only consider the feasibility of implementation by school
23 districts; the costs to school districts and the state in
24 providing and administering the statewide assessment and
25 the technical support necessary to administer the statewide
26 assessment; the costs of acquiring the infrastructure necessary
27 for implementing technology readiness in all of Iowa's school
28 districts, including technology required for accommodations;
29 the degree to which the submission is aligned with the Iowa
30 core academic standards; the ability of the assessment to
31 measure student growth and student proficiency; the ability of
32 the assessment to meet the requirements of the federal Every
33 Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95; and the instructional
34 time required to conduct the statewide assessment.

35 3. The department of education shall issue the request for

1 proposals by April 30, 2017, and shall select the assessment
2 that best meets the criteria established under this section in
3 time for the assessment to be administered as provided in this
4 section. The department shall adopt rules establishing that
5 students enrolled in school districts in grades three through
6 eight and at least one high school grade shall be administered,
7 during the last quarter of each school year, the assessment
8 selected by the department in accordance with this section. An
9 accredited nonpublic school may administer the assessment to
10 students enrolled in the accredited nonpublic school.

11 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
12 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

13 EXPLANATION

14 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
15 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

16 Current law requires that the state board of education
17 provide in rule for a set of core academic indicators in
18 mathematics and reading in grades 4, 8, and 11, and for science
19 in grades 8 and 11, and that the Iowa assessments, used by
20 school districts in the school year beginning July 1, 2011, be
21 used for this purpose.

22 This bill strikes a requirement that the state board's
23 rules provide that for the school year beginning July 1,
24 2017, all students enrolled in school districts in grades 3
25 through 11 shall be administered an assessment during the last
26 quarter of the school year that assesses student progress on
27 the core academic indicators. The requirement also provides
28 that the assessment used after July 1, 2017, at a minimum
29 must be aligned with the Iowa common core standards in both
30 content and rigor; accurately describe student achievement and
31 growth for purposes of the school, the school district, and
32 state accountability systems; and provide valid, reliable, and
33 fair measures of student progress toward college or career
34 readiness.

35 The bill requires the department of education to issue

1 a request for proposals for the selection of a statewide
2 assessment of student progress to be administered in the spring
3 of 2019, and annually thereafter. The assessment shall measure
4 individual student growth and be aligned to the Iowa core
5 academic standards for grades three through eight and at least
6 one high school grade, and be capable of measuring student
7 performance in English language arts, including reading and
8 writing; mathematics; and science. Assessments incapable of
9 assessing all of those subjects shall not be considered. The
10 assessment shall be available in both paper-and-pencil and
11 computer-based formats. Potential vendors or providers may
12 collaborate to meet the requirements.

13 In evaluating the proposals, the department shall consider
14 the feasibility of implementation by school districts; the
15 costs to school districts and the state; the assessment's
16 alignment with the Iowa core academic standards; the ability
17 of the assessment to measure student growth and proficiency;
18 the ability of the assessment to meet the requirements of the
19 federal Every Student Succeeds Act; and the instructional time
20 required.

21 The department of education must issue the request
22 for proposals by April 30, 2017, and adopt rules for the
23 administration of the assessment selected by the department.
24 An accredited nonpublic school may administer the assessment to
25 its students.

26 The bill also strikes a Code provision that provides for
27 an assessment task force. The Iowa assessment task force
28 submitted its findings and recommendations in a report to the
29 general assembly on December 31, 2014.

30 The bill takes effect upon enactment.